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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,436	09/23/2003	Hidekazu Matsuda	03500.017595	3274

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EXAMINER

CHEN, SOPHIA S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2852

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/667,436

Applicant(s)

MATSUDA ET AL.

Examiner

Sophia S. Chen

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/23/03 & 11/13/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Ex parte Qualye

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because of the following informalities:
 - a. Reference character "1" has been used to designate "a drum-shaped electrophotographic photosensitive member" (page 31, lines 5-6, etc. and Figure 1), "pellets" (page 39, line 5, etc.), "a tubular film" (page 39, line 19, etc.), "a beltlike substrate" (page 40, lines 25-26, etc.), and "a meandering preventive member" (page 41, line 23).
 - b. Reference character "2" has been used to designate "an axis (page 31, line 7 and Figure 1), "a beltlike substrate" (page 44, line 8, etc.), "a meandering preventive member" (page 44, lines 23-24, etc.), and "an intermediate transfer belt" (page 45, line 3, etc.).
 - c. Reference character "3" has been used to designate "a charging means (page 31, lines 12-13, etc. and Figure 1), "a beltlike substrate" (page 45, line 8, etc.), "a meandering preventive member" (page 45, line 27 to page 46, line 1, etc.), and "an intermediate transfer belt" (page 46, lines 8-9, etc.).

- d. Reference character "4" has been used to designate "an exposure light (Figure 1), "a beltlike substrate" (page 46, line 14, etc.), "a meandering preventive member" (page 47, lines 6-7, etc.), and "an intermediate transfer belt" (page 47, lines 14-15, etc.).
- e. Reference character "5" has been used to designate "a beltlike substrate" (page 47, line 20, etc.), "a meandering preventive member" (page 48, lines 12-13, etc.), and "an intermediate transfer belt" (page 48, lines 20-21, etc.).
- f. Reference character "C1" has been used to designate "a beltlike substrate" (page 48, line 26, etc.), "a meandering preventive member" (page 49, lines 18-19, etc.), and "an intermediate transfer belt" (page 49, lines 26-27, etc.).
- g. Reference character "C2" has been used to designate "a beltlike substrate" (page 50, line 10, etc.), "a meandering preventive member" (page 51, lines 2-3, etc.), and "an intermediate transfer belt" (page 51, lines 10-11, etc.).
- h. Reference character "C3" has been used to designate "a beltlike substrate" (page 51, line 16, etc.), "a meandering preventive member" (page 52, lines 8-9, etc.), and "an intermediate transfer belt" (page 52, lines 16-17, etc.).
- i. Reference character "C4" has been used to designate "a beltlike substrate" (page 52, line 26, etc.), "a meandering preventive member" (page 53, lines 18-19, etc.), and "an intermediate transfer belt" (page 53, lines 26-27, etc.).
- j. Reference character "C5" has been used to designate "a beltlike substrate" (page 54, line 5, etc.), "a meandering preventive member" (page 54, lines 24-25, etc.), and "an intermediate transfer belt" (page 551, lines 5-6, etc.).

- k. Reference character "C6" has been used to designate "a beltlike substrate" (page 55, line 17, etc.), "a meandering preventive member" (page 56, lines 9-10, etc.), and "an intermediate transfer belt" (page 56, lines 17-18, etc.).

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

- 3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- a. Page 25, lines 13-14, " μ " and "m" should not be separated.
- b. Page 34, line 10, "5" should be "11".
- c. Page 36, line 20, "2" should be "1".
- d. Page 42, line 2, "1" should be "11".
- e. Page 43, line 12, "1" should be "11".

Appropriate correction is required.

- 4. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is

requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-10 are allowed.
6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest an endless belt comprising: a reinforcing base material of a pressure-sensitive adhesive double-coated tape having a thickness of from 25 μm or more to 200 μm or less; pressure-sensitive adhesive layers having a thickness of 200 μm or less and at least one of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layers has a thickness of from more than 100 μm to 200 μm or less; and a meandering –preventive member having a hardness of from 15° or more to 70° or less.

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Abe (US Pat. Pub. No. US 2002/0085864 A1) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive member; an intermediate transfer belt; and a meandering-preventive member.

Kabata et al. (US Pat. Pub. No. US 2003/0035661 A1) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising an endless belt; a meandering-preventive member; and an adhesive layer through which the meandering-preventive member and the belt are bonded has a thickness of 5-100 μm .

Kusaba et al. (US Pat. No. 6,674,989 B1) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive member; an intermediate transfer belt; and a meandering-preventive member.

Fuse et al. (JP 2000-131999 A) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive member; an intermediate transfer belt; a meandering-preventive member; and a pressure-sensitive adhesive double-coated tape having a reinforcing base material and pressure-sensitive adhesive layers.

Morikoshi et al. (JP 2000-289823 A) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive member; an intermediate transfer belt; a meandering-preventive member; and a pressure-sensitive adhesive double-coated tape having a reinforcing base material and pressure-sensitive adhesive layers.

Kato et al. (JP 2001-206522 A) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive member; an intermediate transfer belt; and a meandering-preventive member.

Odajima et al. (JP 2001-239534 A) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive member; an intermediate transfer belt; and a meandering-preventive member.


Odajima et al. (JP 2003-131459 A) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive member; an intermediate transfer belt; a meandering-preventive member; and a pressure-sensitive adhesive double-coated tape having a reinforcing base material and pressure-sensitive adhesive layers.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sophia S. Chen whose telephone number is (703) 308-7617. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on (703) 308-1373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Sophia S. Chen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852